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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,174	06/19/2001	Brian Johnson	303.740US1	2811

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WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI,
P.C.
20333 SH 249
SUITE 600
HOUSTON, TX 77070

EXAMINER

ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2116

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,174

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON, BRIAN

Examiner

A Elamin

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 50-53 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 10-18 and 22-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 19-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 10-18 and 22-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Susnow, US. Pat. No. 6,747,9978.

3. Claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 22, 26-30, 33, 37, 41 and 46, Susnow teaches An apparatus for transferring signals between timing domains [*title, abstract*], comprising:

a receiver for receiving a plurality of signals operative in a first timing domain [*PHY 681 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 64-66*];

a decoder coupled to the receiver for at least partially decoding the signals to generate at least one decoded signal [*decoders 740 of Fig. 7, abstract, col. 7, line 63 thru col. 8, line 6*]; and

an output timing register coupled to the decoder [*Elastic buffer 6820 of Figs 6 and 7*] for outputting the at least one decoded signal in a second timing domain [*col. 6, lines 66-67, col. 8, lines 32-36*].

4. Claims 2, 12, 16, 31, 34, 38 and 42, Susnow teaches the plurality of signals include command signals and the at least one decoded signal includes at least one decoded command signal [*abstract, col. 8, lines 10-16*].

5. Claims 3, 13, 17, 32, 35, 39 and 43, Susnow teaches the plurality of signals include address signals and the at least one decoded signal includes at least one decoded address signal [*abstract*].
6. Claims 4, 10, 14, 18, 25, 36, 40, 44-45 and 49, Susnow teaches the first timing domain and the second timing domain have no predetermined phase relationship [*abstract, col. 11, lines 19-20*].
7. Claims 23 and 47, Susnow teaches the integrated circuit device comprising a DRAM array [*col. 5, lines 14-16*].
8. Claims 24 and 48, Susnow teaches the plurality of command signals command a DRAM operation which is selected from the group of DRAM operations consisting of a read operation, a write operation and a refresh operation [*inherently, to preserve the information stored in the DRAM, the memory has to be refreshed periodically*].

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 6-9 and 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
10. Claims 50-53 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 10-18 and 22-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2116

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

April 3, 2005



A. ELAMIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER